

REMARKS

In the Official Action mailed on **22 June 2005**, the examiner reviewed claims 1-11 and 13-25. Claims 1-5, 13-14, 23, and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakamura (USPN 6,633,873, hereinafter “Nakamura”) in view of Bly et al. (U.S. Pub 2002/0077944, hereinafter “Bly”). Claims 6-11, 15, and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakamura in view of Bly and further in view of Harris (USPub 2002/0059204, hereinafter “Harris”).

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Independent claims 1, 14-15, and 22-23 were rejected as being unpatentable over Nakamura in view of Bly.

Nakamura discloses a system that terminates a search when a requisite number of search results are received (see Nakamura, Abstract, and col. 9, lines 25-51).

In contrast, the present invention obtains search results to satisfy a procurement request, and then filters the search results using specific procurement controls for a given procurement request.

The Examiner avers that the “procurement controls” (which are defined in the disclosure on page 6, lines 15-19) are analogous to the retrieval condition in Nakamura which terminates a search when search results are returned by a specified “quantity of sources”.

Applicant respectfully points out that the procurement controls of the instant application specify controls on, price, quantity, brand, and source for an item to be purchased. (See definition of procurement controls on page 6, lines 15-19 on the instant application) Hence, in the context of procurement controls, the term “quantity” refers to the **quantity of an item to be purchased, not a quantity of responses to a search request.**

Therefore, filtering search results based on “procurement controls” as in the present invention is not analogous to waiting until responses are received from a requisite “quantity of sources” as disclosed in Nakamura.

There is nothing within Nakamura or Bly, either separately or in concert, which suggests applying procurement controls to a procurement request, and then filtering all responses using the procurement controls.

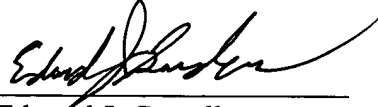
Accordingly, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 14-15, and 22-23 to clarify that the present invention provides procurement controls for a given procurement request, and then filters all responses using the procurement controls. These amendments find support on page 9, lines 19-25 of the instant application.

Hence, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 14-15, and 22-23 as presently amended are in condition for allowance. Applicant also submits that claims 2-11 and 13, which depend upon claim 1, claims 16-21, which depend upon claim 15, and claims 24-25, which depend upon claim 23, are for the same reasons in condition for allowance and for reasons of the unique combinations recited in such claims.

CONCLUSION

It is submitted that the present application is presently in form for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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